



LOCAL 90

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

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**SEAN W. DALY**  
REPRESENTATIVE

**The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**

**Testimony to the General Law Committee**

**SB 317 AA Exempting Certain Distribution Warehouse Employees from Professional Licensing Requirements**

**Tuesday March 6th, 2012**

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding Senate Bill 317 An Act Exempting Certain Distribution Warehouse Employees from Professional Licensing Requirements. The IBEW represents over 6,000 licensed electrical apprentices and journeymen statewide, and we pride ourselves on our continuous effort to ensure our workforce is educated and maintains a safe worksite.

Our understanding of this legislation is that it is aimed at a specific group of individuals working in a warehouse distribution center whose job function is primarily to place items on a conveyer belt, and those individuals are being told they need to hold an occupational license certified by the Department of Consumer Protection in order to perform their job. The IBEW would like to caution the committee against creating another exemption within the occupational licensing statutes as we are always wary of doing so. We feel licenses are important safety measures as they ensure a person has the appropriate training and experience specific to their trade which helps to reduce accidents on a job site. It is our opinion that the system breaks down as we create more and more exemptions from licenses, and this can have a significant impact on safety.

We also question whether the creation of this licensing exemption in statute is necessary. If it is true that individuals are merely using the appropriate tools to place items on the conveyor belt or shelf, we do not see requirements in statutes or regulations that point to the need for a license for that specific job function. Therefore, it does not seem that a license exemption would be appropriate. In an effort to avoid potential safety consequences and complications we ask that the committee refrain from creating another exemption from the licensing statutes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sean Daly  
President, IBEW Local 90

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